

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claim 14 is allowable.

Claims 12 and 18 have been amended for clarity.

Claims 12, 13, 15, 18, and 19 were rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Ahmadi et al. (US 6,597,671) in view of Aho et al. (US 5,408,618) and Sidhu et al. (US 5,150,464). Claim 17 was rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Ahmadi in view of Aho and Sidhu and further in view of Kakushi (JP 08107414). The Applicants respectfully traverse based on the following points.

Claim 12 recites a base station apparatus that receives a network identifier used by an existing base station apparatus and assigns this network identifier to itself, as acknowledged in the Office Action (see Office Action page 2, last paragraph).

The Office Action further acknowledges that Ahmadi does not teach this feature (page 3, first paragraph). In an attempt to overcome the deficiency of Ahmadi's disclosure, the Office Action proposes that Aho teaches a LAN node that queries other nodes for their address information (page 3, lines 11-16). To this teaching, the Office Action adds Sidhu's teaching of a LAN device

that selects a random address and then checks to see if the selected address is used by another device in the LAN so as to ensure that the initializing LAN device is assigned a unique network address within the LAN (page 3, lines 16-21). More specifically, the Office Action states that Sidhu teaches a LAN start-up process that ensures a unique network address is assigned to the initializing LAN device (page 3, lines 16-17).

However, the Applicants respectfully submit that querying other network devices, according to Aho's proposed teachings, to ensure that an initializing device is assigned a unique network address, according to Sidhu's proposed teaching, is not the same as or similar to the claimed feature of a network device that receives a network identifier used by an existing network device and assigns this network identifier to itself, which the Office Action acknowledges is not taught by Ahmadi. More to the point, the Office Action proposes that the combined teachings of the applied references suggest modifying Ahmadi's system so that an initializing network device is certain to be assigned a unique network address. By contrast to such modified system, claim 12 recites assigning the same network identifier used by an existing device to an initializing device.

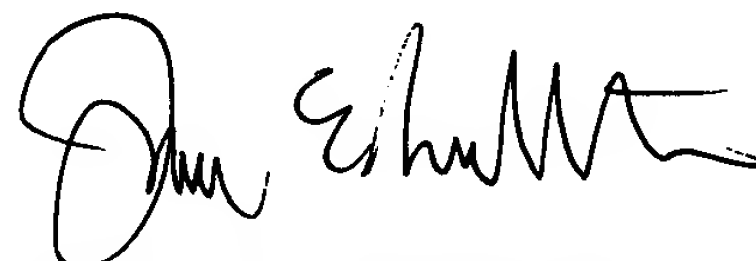
Accordingly, the Applicants submit that the applied references do not teach or suggest the subject matter defined by

claim 12. Claim 18 similarly recites the above-described features distinguishing claim 12 from the applied references, but with respect to a method. For similar reasons that these features distinguish claim 12 from the references, so too do they distinguish claim 18. Therefore, allowance of claims 12 and 18 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Ledbetter
Registration No. 28,732

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JEL/DWW/att

Attorney Docket No. L9289.01110 PCT
STEVENS DAVIS, MILLER & MOSHER, L.L.P.
1615 L Street, N.W., Suite 850
P.O. Box 34387
Washington, D.C. 20043-4387
Telephone: (202) 785-0100
Facsimile: (202) 408-5200